MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

United States Patent Application

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that

I verily believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or a joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

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The specification of which a. is attached hereto b. was filed on as application described and claimed in internation solicit a United States patent.	on seria	l no. and was amended filed and as amer	on (if applicat nded on (if an	ole) (in the cay), which I	case of a PCT-filed application) have reviewed and for which I			
I hereby state that I have as amended by any amendment references			nts of the above-ide	entified spec	rification, including the claims,			
I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Fitle 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 (attached hereto).								
I hereby claim foreign preparent or inventor's certificate liste having a filing date before that of the property of the prope	d below he appli en filed	and have also identified be cation on the basis of which	low any foreign ap	plication for	f any foreign application(s) for r patent or inventor's certificate			
	EIGN API	PLICATION(S), IF ANY, CLAIM	ING PRIORITY UNI	ER 35 USC §	119			
COUNTRY		CATION NUMBER DA	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)		DATE OF ISSUE (day, month, year)			
Japan		2000-192303	27/June/2000					
ALL FORE	IGN APP	LICATION(S), IF ANY, FILED	BEFORE THE PRIOF	RITY APPLIC	ATION(S)			
COUNTRY	APPLIC		DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)		DATE OF ISSUE (day, month, year)			
I hereby claim the benefapplication(s) listed below and, in United States application in the n duty to disclose material informatiling date of the prior application	isofar as ianner p tion as o	s the subject matter of each provided by the first paragra defined in Title 37, Code of	of the claims of t aph of Title 35, Ur of Federal Regulati	his applicated States ons, § 1.56	Code, § 112, I acknowledge the (a) which occurred between the			
U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER		DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)		STATUS (patented, pending, abandoned)				
		1.00						
I hereby claim the benefit below:	t under '	Title 35, United States Code	e § 119(e) of any U:	nited States	provisional application(s) listed			
U.S. PROVISIONAL A	U.S. PROVISIONAL APPLICATION NUMBER DATE OF FILING (Day, Month, Year)			G (Day, Month, Year)				
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I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or patent agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith:

Albrecht, John W.	Reg. No. 40,481	Lacy, Paul E.	Reg. No. 38,946
Anderson, Gregg I.	Reg. No. 28,828	Larson, James A.	Reg. No. 40,443
Ansems, Gregory M.	Reg. No. 42,264	Liepa, Mara E.	Reg. No. 40,066
Batzli, Brian H.	Reg. No. 32,960	Lindquist, Timothy A.	Reg. No. 40,701
Beard, John L.	Reg. No. 27,612	Lycke, Lawrence E.	Reg. No. 38,540
Berns, John M.	Reg. No. 43,496	McAuley, Steven A.	Reg. No. P- 46,084
Black, Bruce E.	Reg. No. 41,622	McDonald, Daniel W.	Reg. No. 32,044
Branch, John W.	Reg. No. 41,633	McIntyre, Jr., William F.	Reg. No. P- 44,921
Bremer, Dennis C.	Reg. No. 40,528	Mueller, Douglas P.	Reg. No. 30,300
Bruess, Steven C.	Reg. No. 34,130	Pauly, Daniel M.	Reg. No. 40,123
Byrne, Linda M.	Reg. No. 32,404	Phillips, John B.	Reg. No. 37,206
Carlson, Alan G.	Reg. No. 25,959	Plunkett, Theodore	Reg. No. 37,209
Caspers, Philip P.	Reg. No. 33,227	Prendergast, Paul	Reg. No. 46,068
Chiapetta, James R.	Reg. No. 39,634	Pytel, Melissa J.	Reg. No. 41,512
Clifford, John A.	Reg. No. 30,247	Qualey, Terry	Reg. No. 25,148
Cochran, William W.	Reg. No. 26,652	Reich, John C.	Reg. No. 37,703
Daignault, Ronald A.	Reg. No. 25,968	Reiland, Earl D.	Reg. No. 25,767
Daley, Dennis R.	Reg. No. 34,994	Schmaltz, David G.	Reg. No. 39,828
Dalglish, Leslie E.	Reg. No. 40,579	Schuman, Mark D.	Reg. No. 31,197
Daulton, Julie R.	Reg. No. 36,414	Schumann, Michael D.	Reg. No. 30,422
DeVries Smith, Katherine M.	Reg. No. 42,157	Scull, Timothy B.	Reg. No. 42,137
DiPietro, Mark J.	Reg. No. 28,707	Sebald, Gregory A.	Reg. No. 33,280
Edell, Robert T.	Reg. No. 20,187	Skoog, Mark T.	Reg. No. 40,178
Epp Ryan, Sandra	Reg. No. 39,667	Spellman, Steven J.	Reg. No. 45,124
Glance, Robert J.	Reg. No. 40,620	Stoll- DeBell, Kirstin L.	Reg. No. 43,164
Goggin, Matthew J.	Reg. No. 44,125	Storer, Shelley D.	Reg. No. 45,135
Golla, Charles E.	Reg. No. 26,896	Sumner, John P.	Reg. No. 29,114
Gorman, Alan G.	Reg. No. 38,472	Sumners, John S.	Reg. No. 24,216
Gould, John D.	Reg. No. 18,223	Swenson, Erik G.	Reg. No. 45,147
Gregson, Richard	Reg. No. 41,804	Tellekson, David K.	Reg. No. 32,314
Gresens, John J.	Reg. No. 33,112	Trembath, Jon R.	Reg. No. 38,344
Hamre, Curtis B.	Reg. No. 29,165	Underhill, Albert L.	Reg. No. 27,403
Hillson, Randall A.	Reg. No. 31,838	Vandenburgh, J. Derek	Reg. No. 32,179
Holzer, Jr., Richard J.	Reg. No. 42,668	Wahl, John R.	Reg. No. 33,044
Johnston, Scott W.	Reg. No. 39,721	Weaver, Karrie G.	Reg. No. 43,245
Kadievitch, Natalie D.	Reg. No. 34,196	Welter, Paul A.	Reg. No. 20,890
Karjeker, Shaukat	Reg. No. 34,049	Whipps, Brian	Reg. No. 43,261
Kastelic, Joseph M.	Reg. No. 37,160	Wickhem, J. Scot	Reg. No. 41,376
Kettelberger, Denise	Reg. No. 33,924	Williams, Douglas J.	Reg. No. 27,054
Keys, Jeramie J.	Reg. No. 42,724	Witt, Jonelle	Reg. No. 41,980
Knearl, Homer L.	Reg. No. 21,197	Wu, Tong	Reg. No. 43,361
Kowalchyk, Alan W.	Reg. No. 31,535	Xu, Min S.	Reg. No. 39,536
Kowalchyk, Katherine M.	Reg. No. 36,848	Zeuli, Anthony R.	Reg. No. 45,255

I hereby authorize them to act and rely on instructions from and communicate directly with the person/assignee/attorney/firm/ organization who/which first sends/sent this case to them and by whom/which I hereby declare that I have consented after full disclosure to be represented unless/until I instruct Merchant & Gould P.C. to the contrary.

Please direct all correspondence in this case to Merchant & Gould P.C. at the address indicated below:

Merchant & Gould P.C. P.O. Box 2903 Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903 I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

	Full Name	Family Name	First Given Name		Second Given Name	
2	Of Inventor	Tatsumi Yasuo		1		
0	Residence	City	State or Foreign Country		Country of Citizenship	
	& Citizenship	Tokyo	Japan		Japan	
1	Post Office	Post Office Address	City		State & Zip Code/Country	
	Address	16-7, Nishi-shinbashi 1-chome, Minato-ku	Tokyo		105-0003 / Japan	
Sign	nature of Inventor 20	1:]	Date:		
		Jasuo Tatsum		A	ug. 28. 2000	
		factor factorin		,	7.20.2	
	Full Name	Family Name	First Given Name		Second Given Name	
2	Of Inventor	Kawai	Masato			
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0	Residence	City	State or Foreign Country		Country of Citizenship	
	& Citizenship	Tokyo	Japan		Japan	
2	Post Office	Post Office Address	City		State & Zip Code/Country	
-	Address	16-7, Nishi-shinbashi 1-chome, Minato-ku	· - ·		105-0003 / Japan	
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		Yasato Kawa	'A	Al	19.28,2000	
			First Given Name		Second Given Name	
	Full Name	Family Name	First Given Name		Second Given Name	
2	Of Inventor					
2			State or Foreign Country		Country of Citizenship	
U	Residence	City	State of Foreign Country		Country of Citationship	
3	& Citizenship		614		State & Zip Code/Country	
3	Post Office	Post Office Address	City		State & 22p Code/Country	
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j a	1		Ti d Ci N	L	Second Given Name	
2	Full Name	Family Name	First Given Name		Second Given Name	
2	Of Inventor				<u> </u>	
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	& Citizenship				State & Zip Code/Country	
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	Full Name	Family Name	First Given Name		Second Given Name	
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	& Citizenship					
5	Post Office	Post Office Address	City		State & Zip Code/Country	
	Address			Т	<u> </u>	
s	ignature of Inventor	205:		Date:		
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1.56 Duty to disclose information material to patentability.

- A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective atent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of al nformation material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty o andor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to e material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the laim is canceled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a laim that is canceled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any laim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability o ny existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information nown to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manne rescribed by mi 1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office as practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages pplicants to carefully examine:
 - prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and (1)
- the closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application (2)elieve any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.
- Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record o eing made of record in the application, and
 - It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim; (1)
 - It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in: (2)
 - Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or (i)
 - (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the reponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the pecification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion o atentability.

- Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are: (c)
 - (1)Each inventor named in the application:
 - Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and (2)
- Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is (3) ssociated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.
- Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the (d) ttorney, agent, or inventor.